

Message Text

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TAGS:PFOR, US, UK

SUBJECT: DOG ISLAND - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING OUTLINE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY TO WILSON (FCO):

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY WILL BE TO ASSESS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PROPOSED NAVAL WEAPONS TRAINING RANGE AT DOG ISLAND AND THE ECOSYSTEM OF THE SURROUNDING ISLANDS AND WATERS. ALL THE FACETS OF THIS USE OF THE AREA WILL BE EXAMINED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. THIS IMPACT WILL BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE LONG TERM UTILIZATION OF THE REGION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS CITIZENS.

METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED WILL INCLUDE RESEARCH AND VERIFICATION

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OF AVAILABLE DATA ON OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRAIN-

ING RANGE, INCLUDING FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF EXERCISES LOCATION AND EXTENT OF RESTRICTED AREAS, NOISE LEVELS AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS. A DETAILED ON-SITE SURVEY OF GEOGRAPHY AND BATHOGRAPHY OF THE REGION, AS WELL AS A SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY WILL BE PERFORMED. DATA DEVELOPED WILL SERVE AS A BASE LINE FROM WHICH PROJECTIONS REGARDING FUTURE POTENTIAL OF THE REGION, BOTH SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGIC,

CAN BE MADE. COMPARATIVE ANALYSES WILL IDENTIFY THE EFFECTS OF THE PRESENCE OF A TRAINING RANGE ON LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT AS CONTRASTED WITH CURRENT EXPECTATIONS.

PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON EVALUATING COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL OF THE REGION. AN INDEPTH STUDY OF THE ANGUILLA-ST. MAARTEN FISHING INDUSTRY WILL IDENTIFY ANY IMPACT DUE TO AREA LIMITATIONS, POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF THE WATERS, OR ADVERSE AFFECTS ON CORAL FORMATIONS WHICH SERVE AS BREEDING GROUNDS. TOURISM WILL BE REVIEWED TO DETERMINE CURRENT LEVELS AND TO MAKE REALISTIC PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, RECOGNIZING LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER, POWER, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AND TRANSPORTATION. A GEOLOGIC SURVEY WILL DETERMINE THE EXISTENCE OF MINERAL DEPOSITS WHICH CAN BE COMMERCIALY EXPLOITED. INCLUDED IN THIS SURVEY WILL BE A REVIEW OF ANY EXISTING DOCUMENTATION WHICH TENDS TO SUPPORT CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF OFFSHORE OIL IN THE AREA.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY WILL ESTABLISH THE CURRENT QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE AREA'S CITIZENS. THIS STUDY WILL IDENTIFY THOSE ASPECTS OF THE TRAINING RANGE WHICH WILL MODIFY THIS EXISTING LEVEL, SUCH AS NOISE FACTORS, IMPACT ON THE LABOR MARKET OF CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT OF RANGE FACILITIES, POSSIBLE AUGMENTATION OF UTILITIES SYSTEMS, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL POPULACE.

UPON COMPLETION, THIS EXHAUSTIVE STUDY WILL RESULT IN A COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE ANGUILLAN ENVIRONMENT REFLECTING CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTIONS AND THE EFFECTS THEREON OF A DOG ISLAND RANGE. END TEXT.

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3. PLEASE INFORM WILSON THAT WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO ARRIVE AT MORE SPECIFIC FIGURES ON RANGE UTILIZATION DATA BUT FIND THAT THE RESULTS OF SUCH ATTEMPTS ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE RANGE UTILIZATION DATA PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED IN THE SECTION ROMAN NUMERAL 111 OF THE DOG ISLAND CONCEPT PAPER ENTITLED "RANGE OPERATIONS." KISSINGER

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